

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04013 151010Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 BIB-01

CU-02 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

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R 150814Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4584

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CH, TW, HK

SUBJECT: AMNESTIED KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 3974

1. AS TAIPEI MOURNS THE DEATH OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK, PEKING HAS  
MOVED TO MAXIMIZE A PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE IN ITS CURRENT PEACEFUL  
REUNIFICATION WITH TAIWAN EFFORT. H N RECENTLY AMNESTIED AND

ELDERLY "KMT WARCIMINALS" WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG APRIL 14  
ARE DRAWING HEAVY PUBLICITY FOR THE PRC WHILE AWAITING PERMIS-  
SION FROM THE GRC TO ENTER TAIWAN.

2. THE TEN MEN(ALL IN THEIR 60'S AND 70'S) ARRIVED IN HONG KONG  
FROM THE CHINA BORDER APRIL 14 ACCOMPANIED BY A HORDE OF LOCAL AND  
FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. THE PRC IS ATTEMPTING, RATHER SUCCESSFULLY,  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 04013 151010Z

TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF LENIENCY WHILE EXPLOITING HUMANITARIAN  
ASPECTS OF THE MEN'S EXPRESSED DESIRES TO BE REUNITED WITH

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON TAIWAN. CHINA HAS DISTRIBUTED TV FILM, SHOWN IN HONG KONG APRIL 14, OF THE 4TH NPC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPROVING THE AMNESTY, THE MEN'S EMOTIONAL RESPONSE UPON RECEIVING THE NEWS, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES IN CHINA. TODAY, LOCAL PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG HAVE AGAIN DEVOTED SEVERAL PAGES TO INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEN AND REPORTS OF THEIR MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES. (ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, THE MEN HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN HK\$2,000 (APPROXIMATELY US\$400) TO COVER EXPENSES OF THE TRIP TO TAIWAN WHILE THEIR HOTEL, ETC. IN HONG KONG IS BEING PAID BY THE PRC.)

3. THE PRO-KMT HONG KONG TIMES PROVIDED ONLY A BRIEF NEWS STORY ON THE MEN'S ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG WITHOUT MENTIONING THEIR DESIRE TO TRAVEL ON TO TAIWAN. HOWEVER, THE EXPRESS, ANOTHER PRO-TAIWAN PAPER, FEATURED PICTORIAL COVERAGE OF THE GROUP ON PAGE ONE AND QUESTIONED PRC MOTIVES IN RELEASING THEM. HONG KONG'S INDEPENDENT PRESS HAS CARRIED STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTS ON THE TEN MEN.

4. THE EDITORIAL OF THE PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO OF APRIL 15 DISCUSSES THE MEN'S REASONS FOR WISHING TO GO TO TAIWAN, REFERS TO THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION TO COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES FOR HAVING GRANTED AMNESTY AND APPROVAL FOR TRAVEL TO TAIWAN, AND THE MEN'S DENIAL OF ANY MISSION HAVING BEEN IMPOSED ON THEM BY THE PRC SIDE. AS A CLINCHER, THE EDITORIAL CITES REMARKS OF ONE OF THE TEN (TSAI SHENG-SAN) WHO THOUGHT IT A LITTLE STRANGE THAT TAIWAN WOULD IMPOSE CONDITIONS SINCE THEY HAD WORKED FOR THE KMT FOR SEVERAL DECADES AND ALWAYS MAINTAINED A DESIRE TO GO TO TAIWAN. (NOTE: TSAI REPORTEDLY HAS NO RELATIVES ON TAIWAN, AND HAS LEFT BEHIND A WIFE AND CHILDREN IN CHINA. LOCAL NEWS REPORTS HAVE CITED HIS INTEREST IN MEETING WITH HIS FORMER COMMANDER, CHINAG CHING-KUO). THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE QUERY: "...WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR TAIWAN AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER?"

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## Message Attributes

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